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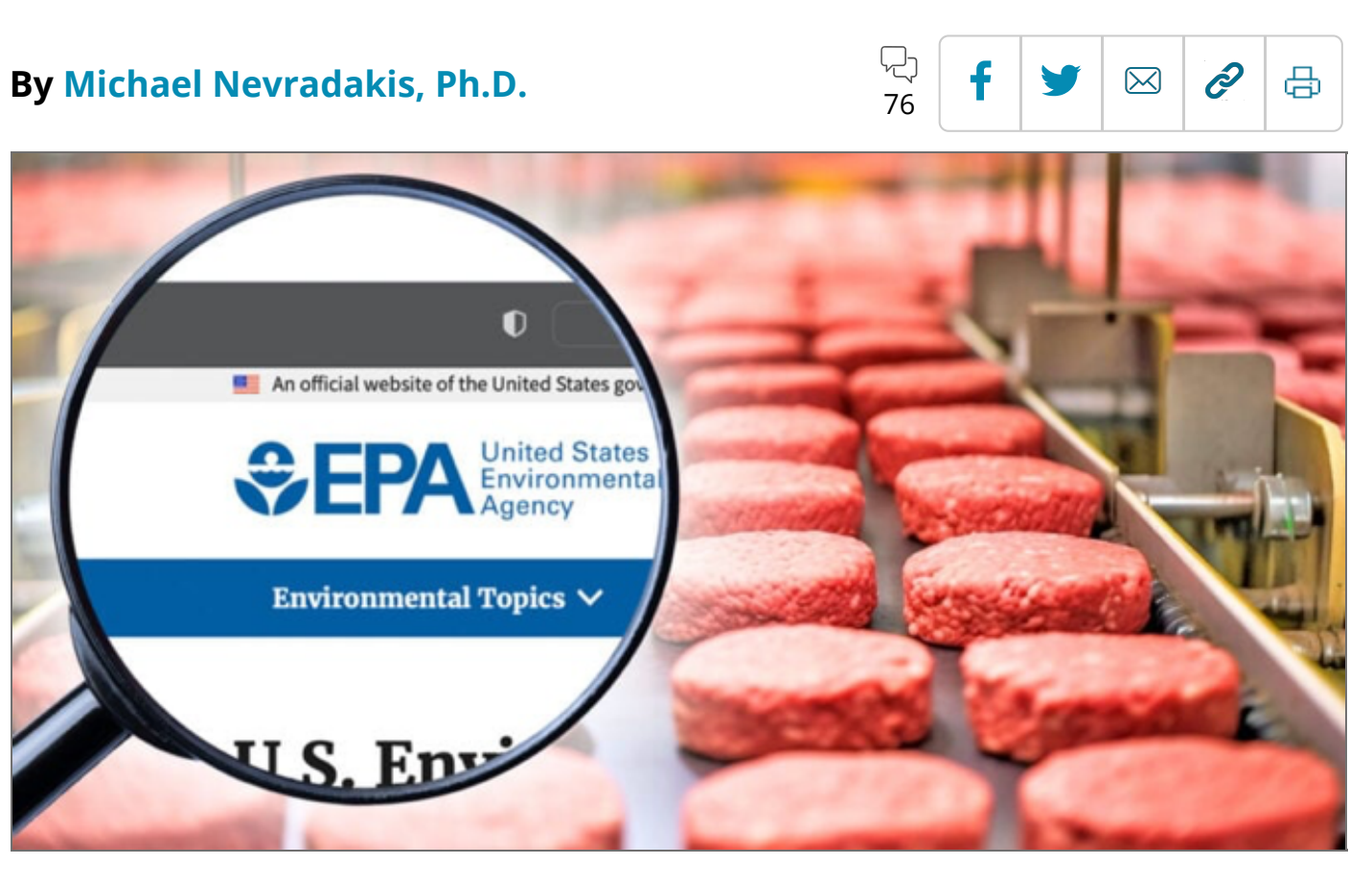
EPA Rule Could Put Small Meat Processors Out of Business — and Leave Consumers Out in the Cold

The EPA's proposed new limits on how much nitrogen, phosphate and other pollutants meat processing facilities can discharge into surface waters will disproportionately affect small meat processors, likely forcing many of them to close or sell out to big corporations.

By Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.

76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EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Topics
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new limits on how much nitrogen, phosphate and other pollutants meat processing facilities can discharge into surface waters.

The EPA said the proposed rule change will "improve water quality and protect human health and the environment."

But some critics argue it also will hurt small processing facilities that won't be able to afford the upgrades required to comply with the new rule.

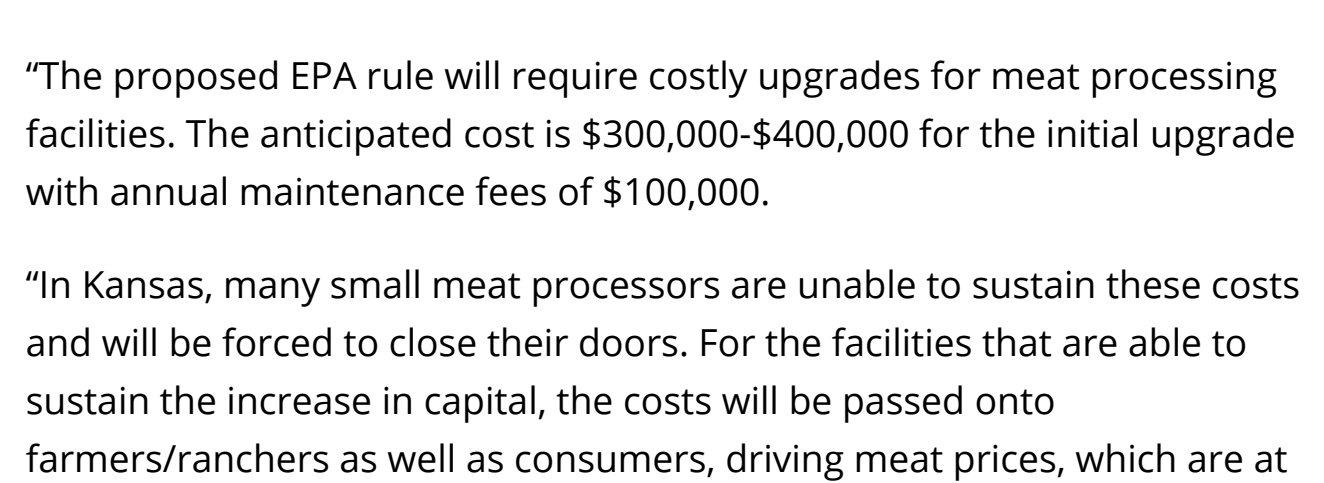
Small facilities will either shut down, resulting in fewer local meat sources for consumers. Or they'll sell out to larger corporations, contributing to even greater consolidation in the meat industry.

Describing it as "a direct attack on the buy local foods movement" and local meat producers, American Stewards of Liberty, the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition and other organizations submitted comments opposing the proposed rule.

Small meat producers 'unable to sustain these costs'

Representatives of the two groups told The Defender why they opposed the EPA's proposal. Tracey Barton, Kansas Natural Resource Coalition's executive director, said:

> "The proposed EPA rule will require costly upgrades for meat processing facilities. The anticipated cost is $300,000-$400,000 for the initial upgrade with annual maintenance fees of $100,000.
>
> "In Kansas, many small meat processors are unable to sustain these costs and will be forced to close their doors. For the facilities that are able to sustain the increase in capital, the costs will be passed onto farmers/ranchers as well as consumers, driving meat prices, which are at an all-time high, even higher."


"The Wuhan Cover-Up" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
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Margaret Byfield, executive director of American Stewards of Liberty, said, "What is very concerning to us is that in the rule, they have several alternatives … The most extreme of these would apply to, by their own numbers, around 3,700 meat processors. So, that's going to capture your small local meat processor."

According to American Stewards of Liberty, the EPA's current rule, enacted in 1974 and last amended in 2004, applies only to "approximately 150 of the 5,055" small processors in the U.S.

Byfield said the rule would put small processors out of business and add to further concentration in the meat industry:

> "The cost of the regulation is what is going to run these small meat processors out of business. It is taking away Americans' ability to choose if they want to buy their food locally.
>
> "And you probably know there's a huge movement right now of people very concerned about the consolidation of food in America to where we only have four major meat processors in America, the big guys."

According to Barton, an estimated 910 million pounds of protein are expected to be removed from the U.S. food supply if the rule change goes through as written.

"There are also indirect negative effects on farmers and ranchers: limiting access to local meat processors, restricting the ability to sell to local consumers and requiring herd reduction or liquidation."

Howard Vlieger, a member of the board of advisers of GMO/Toxin Free USA, told The Defender the EPA's proposed rule is devoid of common sense.

"The first question that I would ask is, what is their desired outcome? Is the agency wanting to drive small packers out of business?" he asked.

According to Barton, what prompted the EPA's proposal was "an environmental sue and settle case," Cape Fear River Watch et al. v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, which "the EPA settled within four months … agreeing to modify their rules."

A consortium of environmental organizations filed the lawsuit in 2022, alleging most meat processing facilities were not governed by water pollution standards.

As a result of the settlement, the EPA determined that revisions to its water pollution rules for meat processing facilities were "appropriate" — leading to the new proposal.

Byfield said, "The rule isn't in effect yet" and that "the next step in the process is to go through all those [public] comments … revise their rule based on those comments and then issue a new final rule."

However, she warned the EPA may skip certain steps.

"Typically, in this process, you have a second comment period … However, what we've seen from this administration is, they bypass that second set of comments. We anticipate that they're going to try and push this rule out as quickly as they can … before the window of the Congressional Review Act kicks in," Byfield said.

What this means, said Byfield, is that if the administration changes, Congress can review and revoke "anything that was finalized" within 90 legislative days of that time.

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's *New* Book: "Vax-Unvax"
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Local economies, consumers will suffer

Local economies will suffer if small processing facilities close, Byfield said.

"When a beef is processed in a local meat processing plant, that butcher is buying his groceries there, he's hiring people there, everybody is turning over their dollar in that community, and that's what drives that local economy," Byfield said.

"When you start shutting down industries, that's one way to dry up a local economy so that people don't live there anymore," she added.

Writing on Substack, Dr. Robert Malone said the EPA anticipates the new rules will, at least, "result in the closure of 16 processing facilities across the country … However, on the high side, EPA estimates include an impact range of up to 845 processing facilities."

Byfield was not optimistic, projecting that many meat processing facilities will be bought out by large companies and subsequently forced to close if the rule takes effect.

"I think that the likely scenario is they'd shut them down, because it makes more sense to spend the $300,000-400,000 in one facility, not in five or six. I mean, that's a huge cost even to the big guys," she said.

Vlieger said, "There are many common-sense options that could be utilized that would be cost-efficient and simultaneously utilize the nutrient sources for crop production, but the EPA seemingly wants to regulate small processors to death."

Large meat processors — particularly concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs — are the ones who benefit from favorable policies, he said.

"Small processing facilities are already at a disadvantage due to the costs for the rendering components of slaughter of all species of meat animals and poultry. Whereas the largest packing companies receive credits for hide and offal, the small processors have an expense to dispose of the offal," he said, referring to additional revenue large meat packing facilities can earn by selling meat by-products.

"This is an example of the government picking winners and losers. The losers are farmers/ranchers and small meat processors who cannot afford to comply with the capital investment to meet the EPA standards," Barton said.

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Byfield said consumers may be left with fewer options if the rule is passed:

> "For those who really are interested in good nutrition and quality, they know the best food is that which is freshest, which was grown locally. That's where you're going to get your most nutritious food.
>
> "This would take that option away because that meat processor now, or your local producer, whoever is raising your beef or your lamb or chicken, they're going to have to travel such a large distance to go to a major processor that it's going to be unprofitable for them. Or … they're going to have to increase the price to where it's out of range for the common citizen to make that choice."

Byfield said that access to local meat producers also allows consumers to build relationships with farmers and ranchers and to learn what goes into the meat they buy.

"A lot of these local producers will invite you out to their property … And so, you know where your meat's coming from and you know what it's being fed, and whether it's getting mRNA vaccines or some of these other very controversial things … You can see that, and you can monitor it because it's local," she said.

"We think people should have the ability to buy their food locally if that's what they choose," Byfield said, likening the EPA's proposal to rules the agency implemented in the 1960s and 1970s that resulted in many small butcher shops going out of business.

"You no longer have that local butcher store," Byfield said. "Now, you have more regional butcher shops where they have to be large enough so that they're processing more meat pounds per day, per week, per month, so that they can afford that regulatory burden that's already there," Byfield said.

Byfield said that a proposed congressional bill, H.R.7079, also known as the "Beef Act," would "stop this rule," urging the public to call their local congressional representatives.

"Additionally, we believe there is going to be an effort to defund the rule through the appropriations process," Byfield added.

"Consumers need to step up and speak out against these draconian government actions," Vlieger said. "The number of small farmers is small, and their voice does not carry the weight that varying consumer organizations have."

"More than ever, it is crucially important to know your farmer and know your food," Vlieger said.

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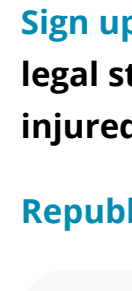

Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.
Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D., based in Athens, Greece, is a senior reporter for The Defender and part of the rotation of hosts for CHD.TV's "Good Morning CHD."

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76 Comments

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9 • Share

Best Newest Oldest

rvrdncr
5 days ago edited
Bill Gates just keeps getting uglier and uglier!
23 0 Reply

Boopjr → rvrdncr
5 days ago
He needs to be stopped
10 0 Reply

1555 → Boopjr
3 days ago
Action taken against this EPA rule is to via Congress. Have all you know who sell at farmers markets, all local ranchers and CONSUMERS to contact their congressional representatives.
Those folks shop at farmers markets too - ours in Colorado do.
They don't want to be stuck with just eating CAFO.

Ask them to EXEMPT small producers, who often can use their waste in compost and such. This action works for us !!!
1 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo → rvrdncr
5 days ago
Oh...is that his face? I must have been looking at him upside down!
2 0 Reply

rvrdncr → Ricky Ricardo
5 days ago
Not just the face!
3 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo → rvrdncr
3 days ago
Could he be reptilian?
2 0 Reply

Peter van der Stam → rvrdncr
5 days ago
Is it possible that he gets any uglier??
You are joking!!
2 0 Reply

lonerngr88
5 days ago
If something like this happened in France the farmers would surround the capitol with their tractors. Oh, it did. And they did. Now the American ranchers & farmers need to take a stand instead of bending over.
18 0 Reply

Peter van der Stam → lonerngr88
5 days ago
And not only that.
When the supermarkets (Carrafour, Aldi and one other one) were ripping of the farmers.
The farmers took revenge.
Offload REAL shit in front of the delivery doors.
That worked well.
12 0 Reply

1555 → lonerngr88
3 days ago
Consumers need to start this. I helped to defeat a bill in the 1990s aimed at making supplements available ONLY by prescription for some doctor. I stood outside of health food store on my way to the bank every day.

Just for 15 minutes. Asked passers by if they knew Vit C would be by prescription only. Asked them to write 1 paragraph letter to the local district Congressman asking to oppose that bill. Health food store provided addressed envelope and stamp. Just 15 minutes once a week would be awesome for all of us to stand outside the store and help do the same for this exemption. Stores and all others that sell organic meat.

That action in 1994 made Dietary Act of 1994 protecting our supplement possible. Congress postal delivery complained that NEVER before in history they had to deliver SO MUCH mail. Snail mail drives the point home-each letter is known to represent over 10,000 people. Get it done folks !
1 0 Reply

Beatrice → 1555
2 days ago
I too was a health freedom activist in the 90's up until 2005. They are attempting to overturn DSHEA once again and I am concerned that this time there will be unanimous support due to the pervasive lack of righteous leadership.

We are up against a mental disease epidemic. Iian McGilchrist, the psychiatrist, hypothesizes that most people rely too heavily on one side of the brain (thanks to rote education and technology) which is leading to a peculiar worldview, and a pathological way of being that is characterized by stubbornness, a lack of empathy, an insatiable appetite for power, and an overall disconnection from reality.

No one can have any relationship with people like this and expect any improvement or positive outcome. It's literally impossible which is why the only solution is to abandon the relationship. So, as citizens, we can't do that and are forced to endure the pain and suffering that these mentally ill people inflict on us UNLESS we can find a way to remove them from their post before they destroy us.
2 0 Reply

American Me
5 days ago
Another cabal agency helping to destroy humanity & the USA as they work their plan to take over the world with their evil 1 world govnt. NEVER comply.
12 0 Reply

1555 → American Me
3 days ago
Time to can EPA, it was only created to make consumers think they have someone looking out for them. But outlawed pesticides are STILL sold until the stock runs out, some indefinitely still allowed on golf courses.

Plus other countries use them to grow produce for sale to the USA. Did you know any of this from EPA press releases?

These are called loopholes. So we need to ask for loophole/exemption for small meat producers. Do not allow Gates to succeed with "starving America" strategy. Take action, keep vision of success for all of us, prosperity, and the Biden nightmare quickly ending.

Remember that China is behind lot of this. They want our land and our country. They stated so 30 years ago. Key is -DON'T let them.
3 0 Reply

Dwan → 1555
3 days ago edited
Remember Obama appointed Monsanto Exec Michael Taylor as our 'Food Czar'! A pest and herbicide company (Round-up - glyphosate, sprayed on a massive amount of Round-up ready crops and other to dessicate plants before harvest) in charge of our food! That poison is in almost every cereal and food product in our country! The rich corporations run our country not us, they own our politicians. Add massive number of vaccines in this countries children, autism and other disorders have skyrocketed in US children. Why? Then our government forced c19 shots. Death actuaries show a 20% rise in deaths in our most healthy group of people, working age people! That is a fact. A group called the Insurance Collaborative to Save lives is working to find ways to keep people from dying bc insurance companies are losing money paying out on life insurance bc of this.
4 0 Reply

1555 → Dwan
3 days ago
Yes, the insurance companies were the first refutable evidence about this. They found out there 40% increase in deaths of people usually low risk of dying - something like 25 to 50 (don't have the exacts in front of me, you can find it if you wish).
1 0 Reply

rosebud → 1555
2 days ago
I think Dwan's and other people's comments in this thread show that we have much more to be concerned about than some foreign boogeyman. The industrial and government entities in our own country are much more the problem.
1 0 Reply

1555 → rosebud
2 days ago
It is driven from top- the New World Order promoters, wanting a single management. So our inside problems are driven by them. We can only work on our local aspect of this, but so important you can find most this on UN website as their plan, to be impressed on the world. UN and WHO are arms and legs by those NWO globalist thugs.
0 0 Reply

William Brooks Hull
5 days ago
This reminds me of the somatic cell count for dairy cattle. Older cows often have higher somatic cell counts - on small farms, older cows are frequently the best milkers. On mega-dairies, cows are often burned out and seldom make it to older age. Thus, by lowering the acceptable somatic cell count, the authorities effectively put many family farms out of business.
12 0 Reply

Vivienne
5 days ago
Very important article, thank you. The EPA should be strategic and focus on CAFO and stay busy with that for many years - and support small farm processors in sensible and creative ways.
11 0 Reply

1555 → Vivienne
3 days ago
Put pressure on local legislators, on your Congress folks and Senate. It works better than us telling EPA. Why ? Small business being lost = voters are unhappy. Jobs are ALWAYS a big deal for politicians, even your state legislators. Be nice, ask them to get to the EPA, get together and PROTECT those local jobs.
1 0 Reply

Ann Linscott
5 days ago
I don't understand the maintenance fee. Why is EPA going after the little guys. The real meat people want with no vaccines for their cattle. Are they forcing us to buy fake meat because they've been bought off?
10 0 Reply

bornczech → Ann Linscott
4 days ago
Te meat not only with no vaccine, but also no-growth hormones. My theory is: if animals get bigger with growth hormone,, how it affects people eating

those animals.
3 0 Reply

1555 → bornczech
3 days ago
Not only growth hormone effects this aspect, but it also contributes - hugely so- to growing cancer. This is a known fact. Known fact.
2 0 Reply

1555 → Ann Linscott
3 days ago
Yes, similar to FDA and Nuclear Regulatory Agency, the door is swinging between the industry and the agencies that regulate them. This is a known, well visible fact. Specially with the FDA, but EPA management is no different. Those guys do not loose their phone book when they become regulators.
1 0 Reply

Peter van der Stam
5 days ago
But hang on.
BIG supermarkets are getting a better deal out of it.
Isn't that what the billionaires (Billy G) need to take in more $$$.
Buy local!! Where have I heard that before.
Come to New Zealand and try to buy local produced goods!!
Much coming from dirty plants and slave labour run Chinese outfits.
Vegetables from China?? Ever heard of that? Well, here you can get it.
10 0 Reply

thejuneauraven
5 days ago
The globalists won't stop until meats are sky high expensive, or outlawed. Their goal is to have is eat crickets and other bugs, exoskeleton and all. I'd love to stuff their imperious faces with cockroaches and see how they like eating them.
9 0 Reply

1555 → thejuneauraven
3 days ago
A nice bag of dried cockroaches brought to a meet and greet with your congress people should illustrate why they need to protect local farmers.
Put that bag of dried cockroaches inside a school lunch box, take it with you to ask them if this is the best food for humans.

Snap a photo of their pucker face at that moment. "This or That?" photos like that are also helpful. A nice Thanksgiving table with Turkey -or plates with dead bugs...photos can travel really fast on the internet.

Did you know that Slavic translation of Klaus Schwab of WEF is 'cockroach'?
2 0 Reply

rosebud → 1555
2 days ago
I don't know Slavic, so I can't tell if your translation is correct, but it should be!
1 0 Reply

1555 → rosebud
2 days ago
It is. I used to translate, plus it is my mother tongue.
0 0 Reply

felix1999 → thejuneauraven
4 days ago
Exactly!
2 0 Reply

Gary Brown
5 days ago
Bill Gates finger prints and money are all over this push make no mistake about it!

AUG 13, 2023 The Public Health™ Red Meat Allergy Bioengineering Plot Thickens…

In a recently unearthed video of the College of Global Public Health Center for Bioethics at New York University Director, Dr. Matthew Liao, speaking at the 2016 World Science Festival, he openly advocates artificially inducing a red meat allergy in the entire human population, using an analog of the algha-gal molecule found in the Lone Star Tick that I have documented previously at Armageddon Prose, so as to fight "climate change."

https://open.substack.com/p...

13 1 Reply

Boopjr → Gary Brown
5 days ago edited
I'm sure Gates from hell is behind it. He wants to grow meet. Bad enough they say 90% of fruits and vegetables are bioengineered. They are poisoning us and getting away with it! How do we make it stop?
12 0 Reply

Gary Brown → Boopjr
5 days ago
All we can do is educate and share with everyone like friends, family and encourage them to do likewise. Be blessed Boopjr!
9 0 Reply

Peter van der Stam → Gary Brown
5 days ago
And then to think that there is NO climate change.
10 0 Reply

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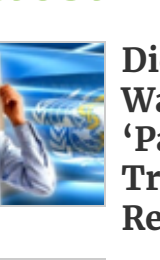
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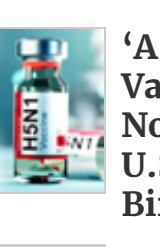
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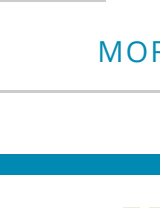
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Gary Brown ➦ Peter van der Stam
5 days ago

This is a definitive article for you Peter. Be blessed and thanks for your time and comment.

February 24, 2023 1500 Scientists Say 'There Is No Climate Emergency' – The Real Environment Movement Was Hijacked

Are you aware that 1500 of the world's leading climate scientists and professionals in over 30 countries have signed a declaration that there is no climate emergency and have refuted the United Nations claims in relation to man-made climate change?

https://www.globalresearch....

see more

10 0 Reply

brbg ➦ Gary Brown
4 days ago

The head of the UN's Climate committee was already caught saying that the "Climate Crisis" is just a way to divest the US of her wealth.

4 0 Reply

Gary Brown ➦ brbg
4 days ago

Absolutely! The U.N.'s Agenda 21 comes to my mind.

3 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo ➦ Gary Brown
5 days ago

Sorry, Gary; but you're wrong on this one "1500 Scientists Say "Climate Change Not Due to CO2". That sentence is typical of the "Appealing to Authority" manipulative techniques that I've seen so many times. There *is* an existential threat to humanity and the planet and it has nothing to do with the "Climate Change/Global Warming" agenda, or co2.
I, and hundreds of other people who actually understand the state of the world better than most, have given this link on so many different sites, so many times.
geoengineeringwatch.org
Dane Wigington is a scientist and he's been researching Geoengineering in its many forms for over 15 years. Actually; I think it's longer than that. He's been trying to wake people up through that site for 15 years. Regardless; this weather modification/manipulation/warfare has been going on for over 75 years...right under people's noses!
There is no "Conspiracy Theory" here, no opinion, no supposition. Dane gives us the FACTS, backed up by credible

see more

3 0 Reply

Gary Brown ➦ Ricky Ricardo
4 days ago edited

CO2 is plant food. This is from NASA friend.

Apr 26, 2016 Rising CO2 Levels Greening Earth by NASA Goddard

From a quarter to half of Earth's vegetated lands has shown significant greening over the last 35 years largely due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, according to a new study published in the journal Nature Climate Change on April 25. The greening represents an increase in leaves on plants and trees equivalent in area to two times the continental United States.

see more

4 0 Reply

Gary Brown ➦ Ricky Ricardo
4 days ago

More on the Sun that controls everything on Earth.

Mar 13, 2023 Climate Forcing Playlist

Climate Change 33 videos

3 0 Reply

1555 ➦ Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago

For my degree in Biology, we studied all this in detail.
Plants breathe CO2 and give us Oxygen back, most of 24 hours.
So:

No CO2=no plants.

No Plants = no Oxygen= No Humans or other life.

NASA told us pre-Covid that polar caps are melting even on Mars. NASA also added that our Sun is the driver of climate in our solar system. So the Sun, not CO2 is driving climate change in cycles.

Climate engineering is a whole other issue, including shooting up incredible amounts of electricity into the Ionosphere in order to create weather, and cause disasters presented as natural events.

2 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo ➦ 1555
6 hours ago

I'm not disputing the symbiotic relationship between plants and humans. I believe I learned all of that in grade six. Those same people will never tell the truth about what's really going on with the weather.
BTW: Methane is infinitely deadlier than any co2. Have a look at this page:
https://duckduckgo.com/?q=m...

0 0 Reply

Gary Brown ➦ Ricky Ricardo
4 days ago edited

I have more on this topic for you I have had filed since you know this.

October 10, 2018 Weather Warfare: Beware the US Military's Experiments with Climatic Warfare

'Climatic warfare' has been excluded from the agenda on climate change.

https://www.globalresearch....

2 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo ➦ Gary Brown
3 days ago

It's good to see that they mentioned DEW's and HAARP. Most of those "wildfires" are NOT caused from "nature behaving badly". It's from people who are playing God behaving badly! Here's a list of patents for you:
https://www.geoengineeringw...
...and on the subject of "wildfires:
https://www.geoengineeringw...

1 0 Reply

Gary Brown ➦ Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago

You should also enjoy this recent publication with links to many more sources.

April 21, 2024 Global WAR NING! Geoengineering Is Wrecking Our Planet and Humanity

Part I - Geoengineering, Politics, and the Planet

https://www.globalresearch....

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